GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2006
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
GUIDANCE TO ENTREPRENEURS OF SMALL SCALE SECTOR
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government proposes to start a project to guide the entrepreneurs of Small Scale Sector in order to help them to compete with the policies of the World Trade Organisation;

(b): if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c): the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of Small Scale Sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a)&(b): The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world`s trading nations and ratified in their Parliaments. India is a member nation of the WTO. There is, therefore, no competition between the small scale sector in India and the policies of the WTO. The Union Government has been organizing workshops and seminars all over the country to acquaint the small scale entrepreneurs with the WTO agreements and their implications for the small enterprises and offering guidance on how to avail of the advantages and face the challenges flowing from these agreements.

(c): The measures taken by the government to protect the legitimate interests of the small scale sector within the provisions of the WTO agreements include assistance for technology upgradation, common infrastructure development and marketing through schemes of cluster development, facilitating availability of institutional credit, assistance for adoption of modern management practices and use of information technology, etc. Besides, protection to the small scale sector within the framework of WTO agreements is available in the form of raising customs duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge of imports, etc.